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November 30, 1994

William F. Caton, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222 Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Crescomm Transmission Services, Inc.

Petition For Rulemaking FCC File No. RM-7912

A&H #1300

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Caton:

On behalf of Crescomm Transmission Services, Inc. ("Crescomm"), there are submitted herewith an original plus four (4) copies of a Supplement To Petition for Rulemaking And Request For Expedited Action. These materials are submitted in connection with the above-referenced Petition for Rulemaking (FCC File No. RM-7912), filed by Crescomm on December 12, 1991.

Should there be any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

Robert G. Allen

RGA:rlg Attachments

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BEFORE THE

Federal Communications Commission

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF SECRETARY

In Re Matter Of)
AMENDMENT OF PART 80 OF THE COMMISSION'S RULES) FCC File No. RM-7912)
For Allocation Of Frequencies For Digital Shipboard Earth Stations)))

To: The Commission

SUPPLEMENT TO PETITION FOR RULEMAKING AND REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED ACTION

CRESCOMM TRANSMISSION SERVICES, INC. ("Crescomm"), by counsel and pursuant to Section 1.41 of the Commission's Rules, hereby: 1.) supplements its Petition for Rulemaking filed in the above-referenced proceeding and, 2.) requests expedited action with respect thereto. Wherefore, the following is stated:

1. On December 12, 1991, Crescomm submitted a Petition for Rulemaking for the issuance of a new rule or rules under Part 80, Stations in the Maritime Service ("Petition"), under which Digital Shipboard Earth Stations would be licensed to utilize C-Band and/or Ku-Band (broadband) frequencies to communicate to and from locations in Ocean, Sea and Coastal areas within the "foot print" of Satellite Systems, with Fixed and Temporary-Fixed Satellite Earth Stations.

- 2. That Petition described the various experimental uses of broadband satellite technology undertaken by Crescomm prior to that date. Reference was made therein to Experimental Call Sign KI2XEE, the Part 5 authorization under which Crescomm was then providing its broadband maritime experimental service.
- 3. On November 9, 1994, Crescomm assigned Experimental License KI2XEE to Holmdel Telecommunications Group, Inc. ("HTG"), however, pursuant to an operating agreement approved by the Commission and entered into between Crescomm and HTG on that same date, the former retains ownership of the physical transmission facilities while HTG now leases those facilities from Crescomm. HTG functions as licensee of all facilities formerly licensed to Crescomm and has assumed full responsibility for FCC compliance matters. Crescomm continues however, to be involved in marketing and research activities associated with broadband maritime telecommunications services. Accordingly, Crescomm remains vitally interested in obtaining early action by the Commission on its Petition.
- 4. Three years have now elapsed since Crescomm filed its Petition. To date, the Commission has taken no action on this matter, despite a burgeoning market interest in the proposed service. However, this delay on the part of the Commission has forced all those currently involved in providing broadband maritime services to continue provision of their services on an experimental basis only, subject to cancellation without notice by FCC action. Such licensing policies have been the direct cause of increasing business

¹In addition to Crescomm, several other entities currently are exploring the commercial possibilities of experimental broadband maritime service, including Comsat, PanAmSat, GTE, LDI Technologies, Inc., and Columbia Communications, Inc.

² Section 5.68 of the Rules allows the Commission to summarily terminate experimental operations at any time without notice or hearing.

uncertainty and market friction regarding the future of broadband maritime satellite service as a commercial opportunity.³

- 5. The public interest is not served by the maintenance of Crescomm's Petition in regulatory limbo. As long as this condition persists, communications providers, their investors, and their end-users, have no way to judge what the future holds. The continued delay in resolution of this matter has placed a permanent cloud over further investment for the pursuit of this service by both Crescomm and others. In the end, such delay may force the abandonment of continued development by those who find the cost and uncertainty associated with waiting to be prohibitive. More importantly, such open-ended delay will, without question, favor the deep-pocketed few to the exclusion of smaller entrepreneurial companies and their investors. It is such constituents of the business community who enjoy a far more limited ability to sustain themselves during any such extended wait for regulatory action. Thus, the effect of further delay may be to deprive the public of a potentially beneficial new communications service, or, at a minimum, to limit the field of competitors to the ultimate detriment of the marketplace.
- 6. The dampening effect on the marketplace resulting from further protracted regulatory delay may well not be confined to the new service proposed by Crescomm, but could spread in the end, to other communications services as the entrepreneurial and investor communities come to learn that the regulatory risks inherent in new technology development are disproportionate and interminable.

³See, e.g. <u>Petition for Declaratory Ruling</u> filed by Crescomm against Comsat Corporation on August 11, 1994 (FCC File No. ISP-94-007).

7. However, by swift consideration of Crescomm's Petition, the Commission will afford current and potential communications providers the necessary framework upon which to base their decisions as to how they can best serve the public. Should the Commission adopt the proposed changes in its Rules, a new avenue for a clearly viable commercial service will be established, and those providers who are currently interested but hesitant, will be able to move forward expeditiously. The marketplace waits.

WHEREFORE, Crescomm respectfully requests that the Commission EXPEDITE its consideration of the proposed amendments to Part 80 set forth in Crescomm's Petition for Rulemaking.

Respectfully submitted,

CRESCOMM TRANSMISSION SERVICES, INC.

By

Pohert G. Allen

Robert L. Galbreath

Its Attorneys

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November 30, 1994

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Valerie M. Nealey, a secretary in the law firm of Allen & Harold, P.L.C., hereby certify that I have this 30th day of November, 1994, caused to be delivered via 1st Class Mail, postage prepaid, copies of the foregoing "Supplement to Petition for Rulemaking and Request for Expedited Action" to the following:

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